

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Withdrawn) Expansion tank according to claim 1, in which the main valve comprises a first valve seat which is connected to the connection opening and a first closure member, the first closure member being provided, on the side facing the first valve seat, with a sealing ring made from relatively soft material, such as rubber, which can interact with the first valve seat in order to close the main valve, the first closure element being formed by a part of the bottom wall of a cup-like element which is open towards the interior of the tank, the main valve being provided with a spring pressing the first closure member away from the first valve seat, and in which the additional valve comprises a second closure member which is designed to close a central passage in the first closure member at the side of the first closure member opposite the cup-like element and which is pressed towards the first closure member by the spring of the main valve, the spring being dimensioned such that if the difference between the pressure in the interior of the expansion tank and the pressure in the connection opening is higher than the original pressure in the expansion tank when the tank was delivered the second closure member is pressed away from the first closure member, counter to the spring force of the spring, whereby the additional valve is opened.

3. (Withdrawn) Expansion tank according to claim 1, in which the main valve comprises a first valve seat which is connected to the connection opening and a first closure member, the first closure member being provided, on the side facing the first valve seat, with a sealing ring made from relatively soft material, such as rubber, which can interact with the first valve seat in order to close the main valve, the first closure element being formed by a part of the bottom wall of a cup-like element which is open towards the interior of the tank, in which a float body is present inside the cup-like element, the float body being freely movable in the cup-like element end being retained therein by means of retaining elements at the free edge of the cup-like element, and in which the additional valve comprises a needle-shaped closure member at the bottom side of the float body which needle-shaped closure member can close a central channel in

the first closure member of the main valve at the side of the cup-like element, the arrangement being such that if the float body is in contact with the retaining elements the tip of the needle-shaped closure member is at distance from the central channel.

4. (Withdrawn) Expansion tank according to claim 1, in which the main valve comprises a first valve seat which is connected to the connection opening and a first closure member, the first closure member being provided, on the side facing the first valve seat, with a sealing ring made from relatively soft material, such as rubber, which can interact with the first valve seat in order to close the main valve, the first closure element being formed by a part of the bottom wall of a cup-like element which is open towards the interior of the tank, in which a float body is present inside the cup-like element, the float body being freely movable in the cup-like element end being retained therein by means of retaining elements at the free edge of the cup-like element, and in which the additional valve comprises a needle-shaped closure member at the bottom side of the float body which needle-shaped closure member can close a central channel in the first closure member of the main valve at the side of the cup-like element, the arrangement being such that if the float body is in contact with the retaining elements the tip of the needle-shaped closure member is at distance from the central channel, the tank being provided with a second additional valve which is designed as a valve in a channel in the bottom of the cup-like element, the channel extending from the outer side of the cup-like element to central channel in the first closure member, the second additional valve having a valve seat, a closure member and a spring which presses the closure member on the valve seat, the valve seat and the spring acting towards the interior of the expansion tank, the spring being dimensioned such that if the difference between the pressure in the interior of the expansion tank and the pressure in the connection opening is higher than the original pressure in the expansion tank when the tank was delivered the closure member is pressed away from the seat, counter to the spring force of the spring, whereby the additional valve is opened.

5. (Previously Presented) The expansion tank according to claim 7, wherein the main valve comprises a first valve seat connected to the connection opening and a first closure member, the first closure member being provided, on the side facing the first valve seat, with a sealing ring made from soft material operable to interact with the first valve seat to close the

main valve, the first closure element being formed by a part of the bottom wall of a body inside the expansion tank, and

wherein the additional valve is a valve in a channel in the body, the channel extending from the top side of the body to the region of the first closure member inside the sealing ring, the additional valve comprising a valve seat, a closure member and a spring urging the closure member on the valve seat, the valve seat and the spring acting towards the interior of the expansion tank, the spring being dimensioned such that if a difference between the pressure in the interior of the expansion tank and the pressure in the connection opening reaches the second overpressure greater than the overpressure which exists ex works the closure member is pressed away from the seat, counter to the spring force of the spring, whereby the additional valve is opened.

6. (Previously Presented) The expansion tank of claim 7, wherein the sealing ring comprises rubber.

7. (Previously Presented) An expansion tank system operable to be connected to a pipe system, the expansion tank system comprising:

- a tank configured for containing a liquid and/or a gas;

- a connection opening configured to connect the tank to the pipe system;

- a main channel positioned between the tank and the connection opening;

- a main valve positioned in the main channel and configured to separate the inside of the tank from the connection opening, the main valve comprising a first valve seat and a first closure member interacting with the first valve seat and being operable:

- a) to close off the main channel at a defined overpressure when the pressure inside the tank is greater than the pressure in the connection opening, said overpressure having a defined level, and/or

- b) to close off the main channel at a defined liquid level in the tank, said overpressure and/or liquid level in the tank closing off the main channel by pressing the first closure member against the first valve seat;

- an auxiliary channel extending through the first closure member of the main valve from the interior of the tank to the connection opening when the main valve is in a closed position,

wherein said expansion tank system is manufactured such that the tank has at least the defined overpressure ex works, the expansion tank system further comprising:

an additional valve positioned in the auxiliary channel formed to close off the auxiliary channel, the additional valve being formed to be closed during normal operation of the expansion tank when connected to the pipe system and to be opened when, during operation, a second overpressure exists in the tank greater than the overpressure which exists ex works.

8. (New) An expansion tank system operable to be connected to a pipe system, the expansion tank system comprising:

a tank configured to contain a liquid and/or a gas;

a connection opening configured to connect the tank to the pipe system;

a main channel positioned between the tank and the connection opening;

a main valve positioned in the main channel and configured to separate the inside of the tank from the connection opening, the main valve comprising a first valve seat and a first closure member interacting with the first valve seat and being operable:

a) to close off the main channel at a defined overpressure when the pressure inside the tank is greater than the pressure in the connection opening, said overpressure having a defined level, and

b) to close off the main channel at a defined liquid level in the tank,
said overpressure and/or liquid level in the tank closing off the main channel by pressing the first closure member against the first valve seat;

an auxiliary channel extending through the first closure member of the main valve from the interior of the tank to the connection opening when the main valve is in a closed position,

wherein said expansion tank system is manufactured such that the tank has at least the defined overpressure ex works, the expansion tank system further comprising:

an additional valve positioned in the auxiliary channel formed to close off the auxiliary channel, the additional valve being formed to be closed during normal operation of the expansion tank when connected to the pipe system and to be opened when, during operation, a second overpressure exists in the tank greater than the overpressure which exists ex works.